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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 36 Berkeley, California, April, 1954 Number 4

BLACK-HEAD GULL SEEN AT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

On Jan. 23, 1954, near the head of the Richmond ship channel (Ellis Canal), Guggolz observed a gull which did not match the description of any of the gulls in the western field guides. On the morning of Jan. 24, the bird was found again in the same place by Guggolz and Curl, and was identified as an adult Black-headed Gull *(Larus ridibundus)* in winter plumage. On the afternoon of Jan. 24, the bird was found again in the same by Curl, Howard L. Cogswell, and Alexander Sprunt IV; the identification was confirmed by the latter two observers. The bird was seen perched on a floating log in company with Bonaparte Gulls *(L. philadelphia)*. It resembled the latter but was noticeably larger, and had a red bill which was black near the tip; the legs were a deeper red in color. In flight also the bird was noticeably larger than the Bonaparte Gulls and had a similar white stripe on the leading edge of the wing; the primaries were white above and blackish below except for the first one which was white. Apparently the only published report of the Black-headed Gull on the American Pacific Coast is that of O. J. Murie (Auk 62, 1945: 313) who reported the collection of a second-year *L. r. sibericus* in Kiska Harbor in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, on June 4, 1937.

The Black-headed Gull is not included in Bent's "Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns". The first record for the United States was at Newburyport, Mass. in 1930 by Emilio and Griscom. In recent years it has occurred regularly along the coast of New England and Long Island, and is included in the 1947 edition of Peterson's "A Field Guide to the Birds" and in Pough's "Audubon Water Bird Guide" (1951). This is a very common gull in Europe and breeds from Iceland east to north-central Siberia and south to the Mediterranean; it winters in the Canaries, North Africa, India, China, Japan and the Philippines.

— Jack Guggolz and A. Laurence Curl.

(The first paragraph of the above note was submitted to THE CONDOR but was refused publication since the bird was not collected — Ed.)

NEW MEMBERS. We welcome the following: from San Francisco, Miss Rosalie T. Cummings, Mrs. Leo C. Paul, Jonathan C. Rice; from Oakland, Donald H. De Foe, Phillip D. Toll; from Berkeley, Miss Leona R. Noe, Miss Florence V. Weber.

FEBRUARY TRIP TO RITCHIE RANCH

About 70 members and guests joined in the trip to the Ritchie Ranch on February 7. Mrs. Myra Browne was the leader. The weather was overcast and cold. Many of the group succeeded in approaching the Sandhill Cranes to within about 150 feet. Hundreds of the cranes were seen in one area, which may be reached as follows: from the junction of Route 12 and Thornton Road, between Terminous and Lodi (The Rodeo is here), drive north on Thornton Road; turn left on the second road (about 3 miles) and drive west two or three miles (the road dead-ends at the levee).

The list of the birds seen is as follows: Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Snowy Egret, Whistling Swan, Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Mallard, Pintail, Baldpate (Am. Widgeon), Turkey Vulture, White tailed Kite, Marsh Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Sandhill Crane (both Greater and Lesser subspecies, the latter is the Little Brown Crane), Sora, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Glaucous-winged Gull, Calif. Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Short-eared Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Black Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Common Raven, Am. Crow, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Audubon Warbler, House Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Am. Goldfinch, Savannah Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total, 55 species, one additional subspecies. Also seen near the ranch were Burrowing Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Spotted Towhee. — FRANK A. SCOTT, *Historian.*

FEBRUARY TRIP TO BERKELEY AQUATIC PARK

On Saturday, February 20, 30 members and guests took part in the trip to Berkeley Aquatic Park. The air was crisp, it was slightly foggy and there was no wind. The island in the KRE pool offered some close-up studies of shore birds and ducks. Avocets and shovellers were of particular interest to the group. Off the Albany dump Forster terns were very active as the tide was coming in and they were feeding. Bonaparte gulls were also spotted here. In the large pool between the Berkeley dumps and the approach to the Berkeley pier several buffleheads and golden-eyes were seen. Forty-one species were identified, as follows: Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, W. Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Am. Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Mallard, Am. Widgeon (Baldpate), Pintail, Shoveller, Canvas-back, Lesser Scaup, Am. Golden-eye, Bufflehead, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Coot, Killdeer, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, W. Sandpiper, Sanderling, Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, W. Gull, Herring Gull, Calif. Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Short-billed Gull, Bonaparte Gull, Forster Tern, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Water Pipit, House Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Song Sparrow. — HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Leader and Historian.*

OBSERVATIONS

A FALCATED TEAL was reported on Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco on Feb. 28 by George T. Kilham and has since been seen there by other observers. RED-NECKED GREBE, Conn Lake, Feb. 20 (A. Laurence Curl); FULMAR, 3 at Pt. Reyes, Feb. 7 (Kenneth R. Schulz); CINNAMON TEAL, pair at Olema, Feb. 7 (KRS); WOOD DUCKS, 3 at Chain-of-Lakes, Golden Gate Park, Feb. 6 (Junea W. Kelly); VIRGINIA RAIL, Chain-of-Lakes, Feb. 6 (JWK); SORA, 1 on Feb. 2, 2 on Feb. 6, Chain-of-Lakes (JWK); RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD, El Cerrito, Feb. 22 (ALC); ALLEN HUMMINGBIRD, Chain-of-Lakes, Feb. 6 (JWK); YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER, Olema, Feb. 7 (KRS); WINTER WREN, Chain-of-Lakes, Feb. 3 (JWK); LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN, Chain-of-Lakes, Feb. 3 (JWK); STARLING, 170-190, Pt. Reyes, Feb. 7 (KRS); ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, Olema, Feb. 7 (KRS); TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD, 10, Pt. Reyes, Feb. 7 (KRS); EVENING GROSBEAK, 15, Olema, Feb. 7 (KRS).

CONDENSED TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1953

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

Balance in commercial account January 1, 1953	$3,329.38
Receipts in 1953	3,352.71
Total	6,682.09
Cash paid out (expenditures)	1,776.94
Balance in commercial account December 31, 1953	$4,905.15

TOTAL ASSETS:

Commercial Account	$4,905.15
Savings Account	72.17
U. S. Treasury Bond	480.50
	$5,457.82

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership in force January 1, 1953	506
Membership in force December 31, 1953	510

HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Treasurer.*

AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA. The camp will be held again this year at the Sugar Bowl near Donner Summit under the direction of William N. Goodall, Pacific Coast Representative of the National Audubon Society. There will be 5 sessions of two weeks each: June 27—July 10; July 11 - 24; July 25—Aug. 7; Aug. 8 - 21; and Aug. 22—Sept. 4. Registration is open to anyone interested in nature and conservation, if 18 years of age or over. For reservations and information write to the National Audubon Society, 693 Sutter Street — Room 201, San Francisco, California.

APRIL MEETING

Due to the fact that the last Screen Tour of the present series was scheduled for the same evening as the 439th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, they will be combined in the Berkeley High School Little Theater on Thursday, April 8, at 8 p.m. — MRS. BUDD J. SMITH, *Program Chairman.*

SCREEN TOUR LECTURE — The finale of the 1953 - 54 series will be held as noted above. The speaker will be Carl W. Buchheister, Vice President of the National Audubon Society, with the subject "Pastures of the Sea".

APRIL TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

On Saturday, April 17, we will meet at Lincoln Park, High and Santa Clara Streets, Alameda, at 10 a.m. in order to have the best tide. Shore birds and other species may be looked for. From San Francisco take "O" bus; from the East Side take bus 51 or 52. Leader, Leland Stallcup. Bring binoculars, telescopes, and interested friends.

APRIL TRIP TO McCOY RANCH

On Sunday, April 25, to the McCoy Ranch and Arroyo Mocho south of Livermore. On this trip we usually see the Phainopepla, Western Kingbird, Yellow-billed Magpie and other interesting birds. Meet at the flagpole on First Street in Livermore at 9:15 a.m. and proceed on South Livermore Street, Tesla Road and Mines Road to the McCoy Ranch. Harry Adamson, leader. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescopes and interested friends.

— FRANK A. SCOTT, *Chairman, Field Trip Committee.*

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Estabished January 25, 1917

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Joint Membership, Local and National $5.00 per year, includes Audubon Magazine. Local Membership only, $1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco 2 — PR. 5-4042